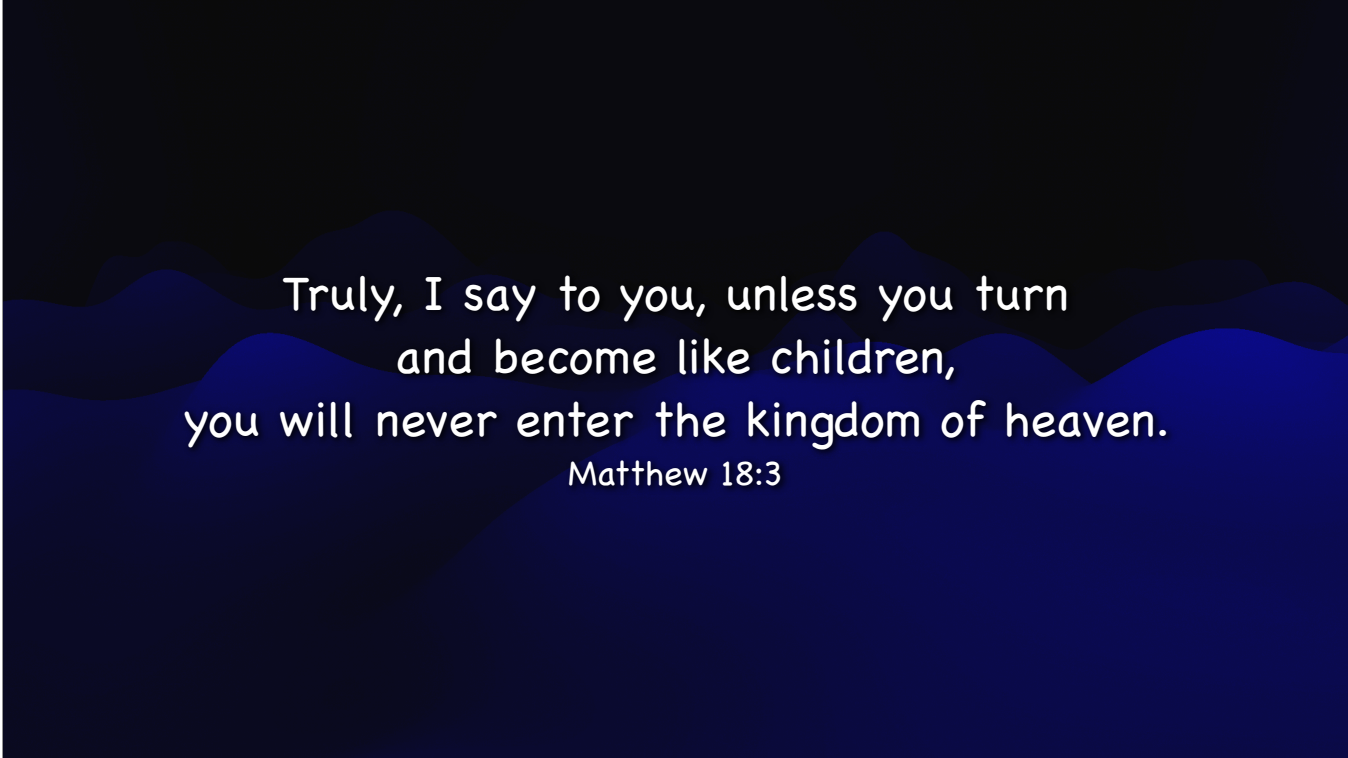


Jesus Increased

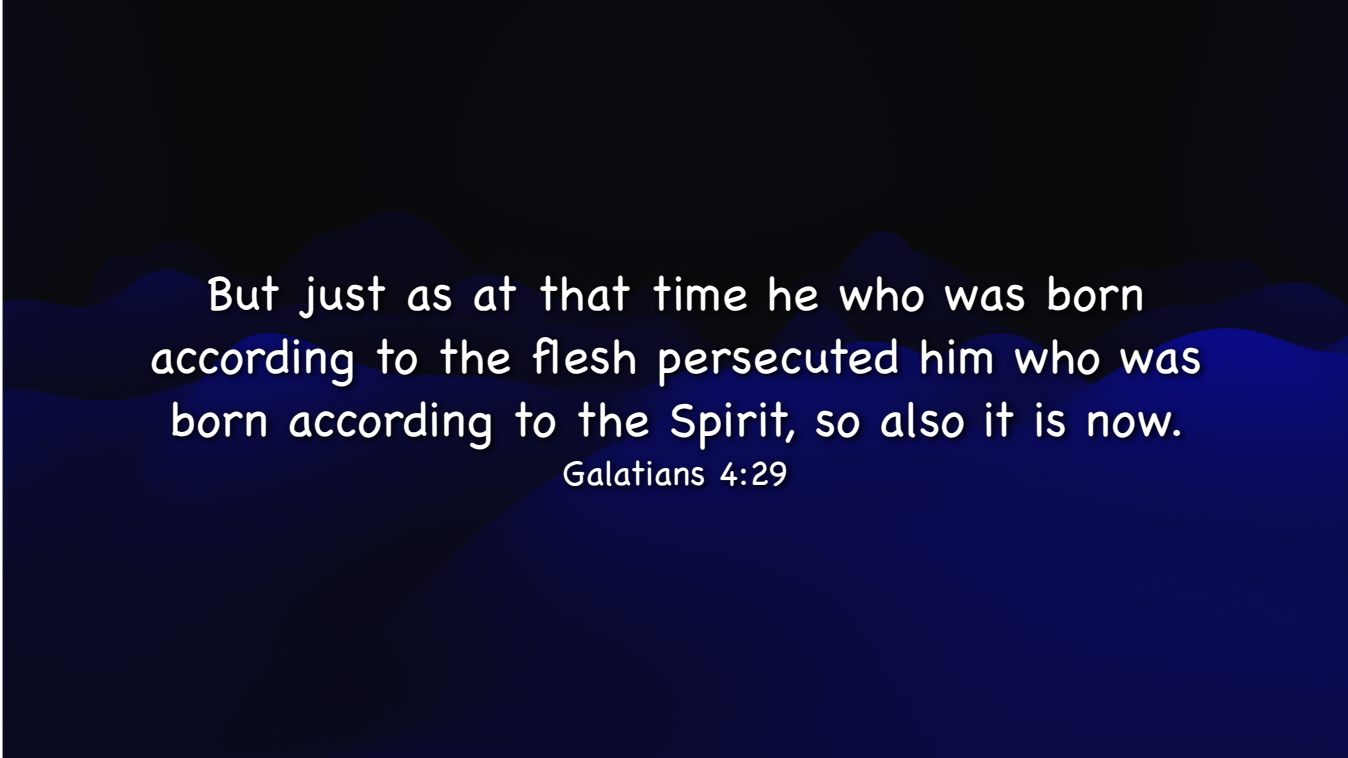
Luke 2:39-52



Truly, I say to you, unless you turn
and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

- Matthew 18:3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Amazingly powerful statement with eternal consequences
- What does Jesus mean?
 - Jesus didn’t point to someone rich, important, wise, elder, etc. picked a child!
 - Jesus used the child to help us learn about salvation and the kingdom



But just as at that time he who was born
according to the flesh persecuted him who was
born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.

Galatians 4:29

- Not all kids are good kids all the time ...
- Ishmael (A teenager)
 - Genesis 21:9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing.
 - Galatians 4:29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood,
he himself likewise partook of the same things

Hebrews 2:14

Therefore he had to be made like
his brothers in every respect

Hebrews 2:17

- Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

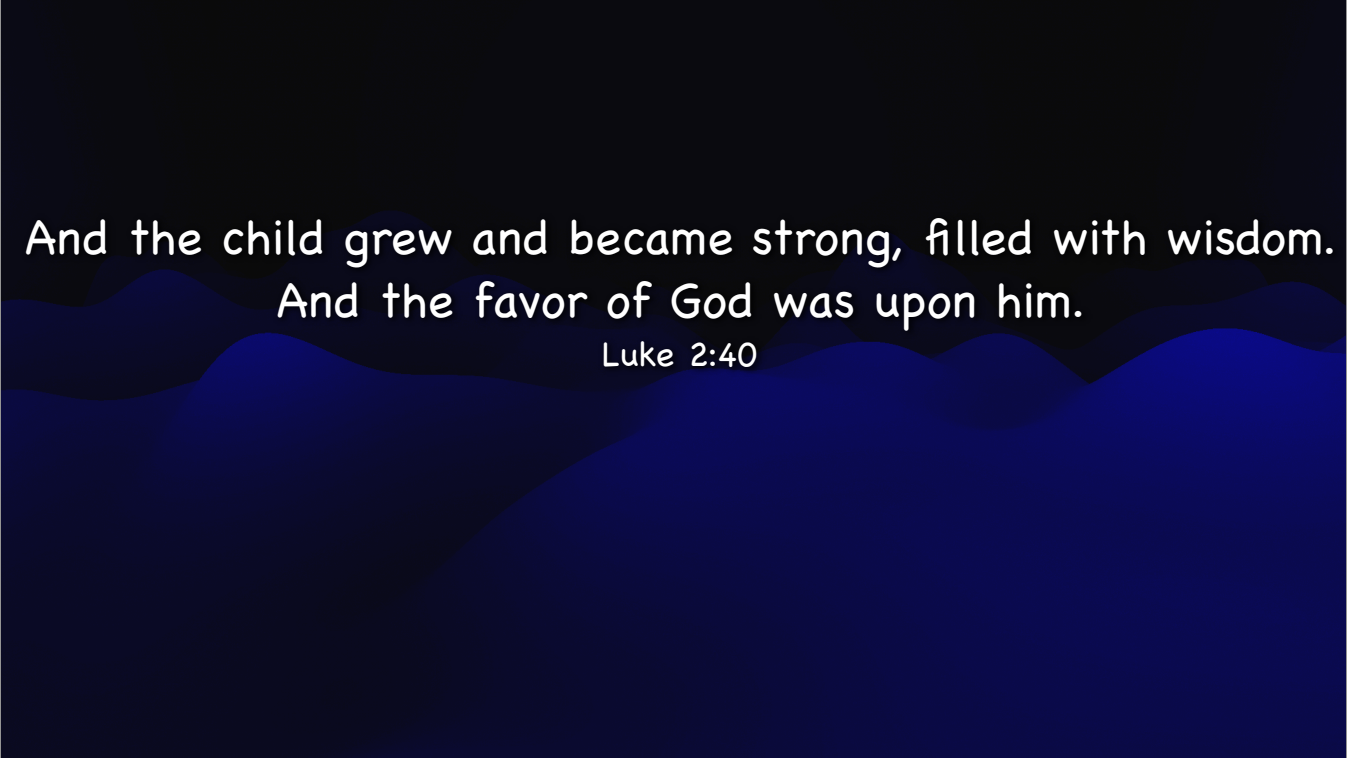
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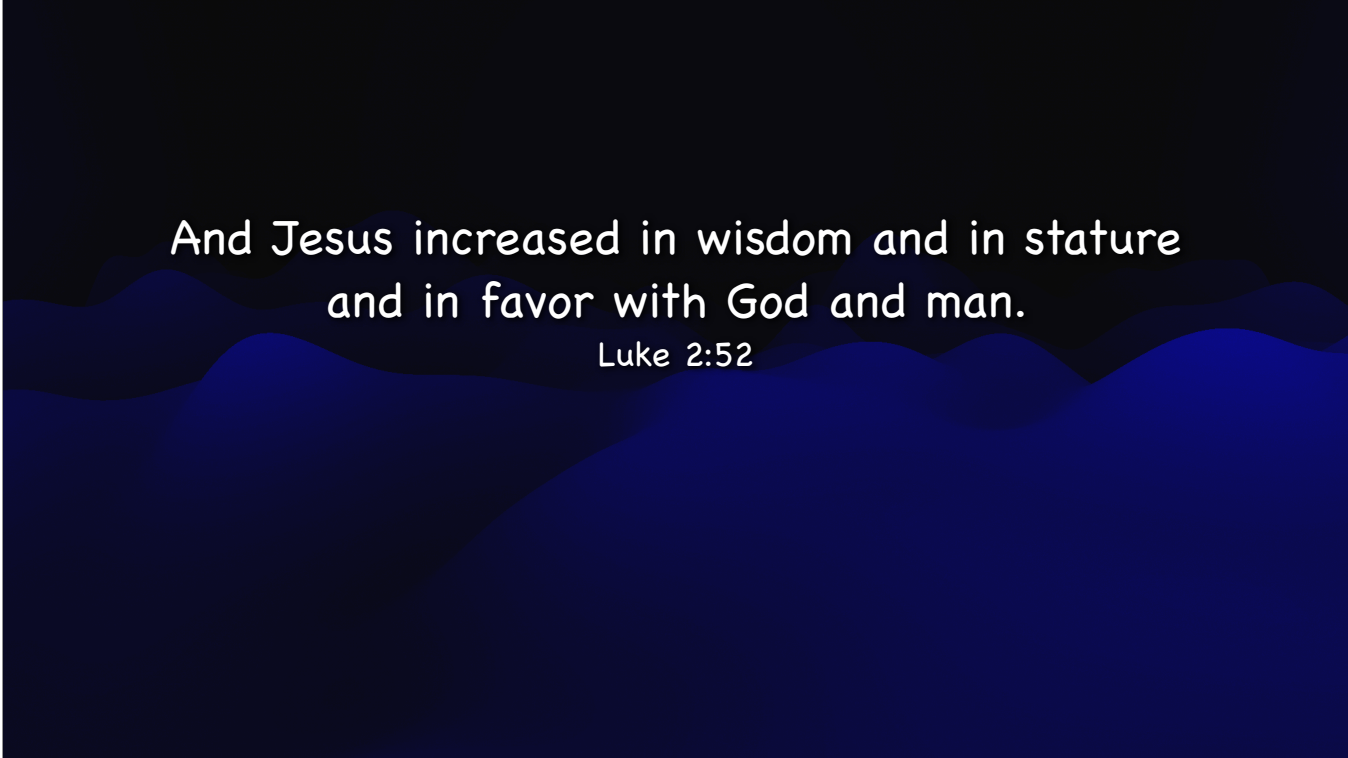
Hebrews 2:17

- Because he was like us in every way, Jesus was a child
 - Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,
- Hard for us conceive of Jesus as a child
- Did he cry, fuss, not sleep through the night?
- How did he treat his siblings?
 - How hard was it to be Jesus' brother?
- There are some apocryphal stories
 - Not inspired and clearly wrong
 - Doing meaningless miracles
 - Killing other children who were mean to him.
- Luke tells us a little.



And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
And the favor of God was upon him.
Luke 2:40

- Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.



And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature
and in favor with God and man.

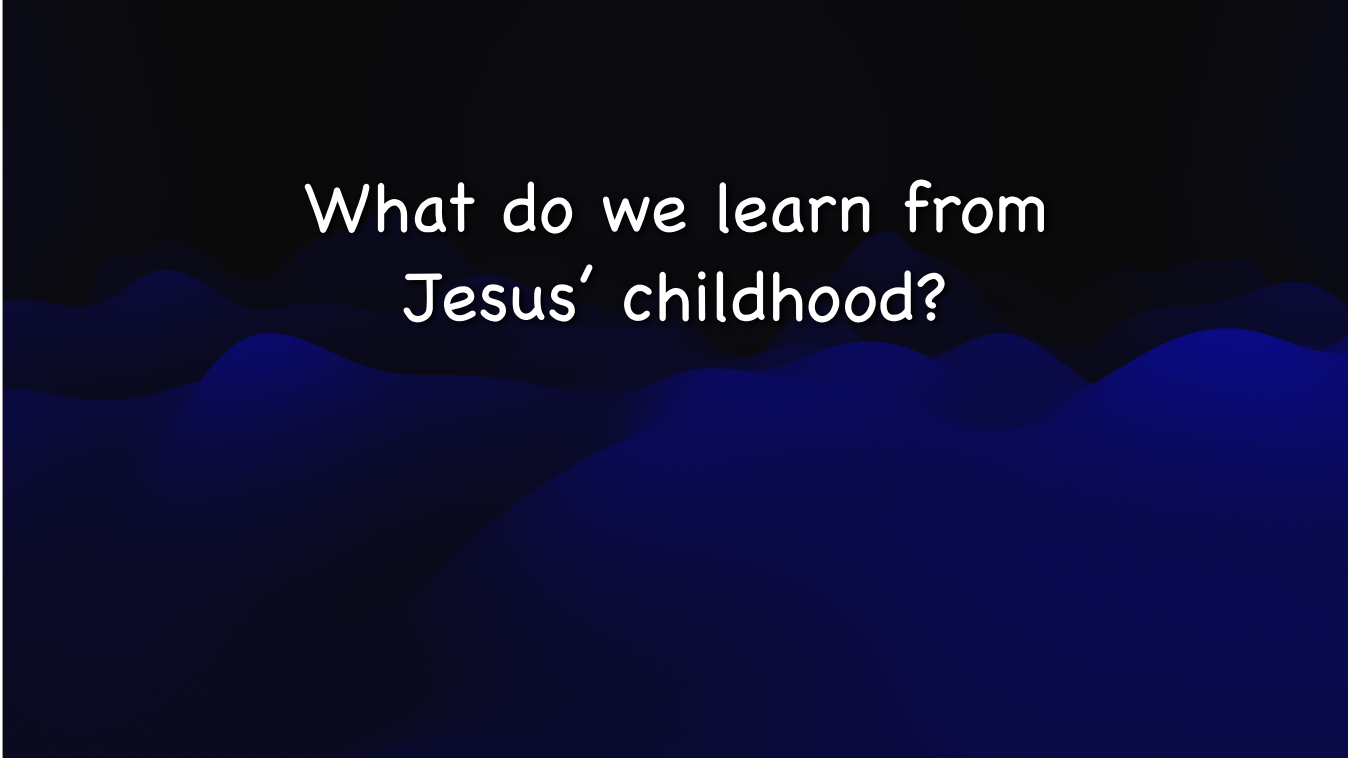
Luke 2:52

- Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting among the teachers, listening to them and
asking them questions. And all who heard him were
amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:46-47

- Luke 2:46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
- What is Jesus doing in the temple?
 - Sitting among the teachers
 - Listening
 - Asking Questions
 - Amazed at understanding and answers



What do we learn from Jesus' childhood?

- What do we learn about being a child from Jesus?
- As a child, he grew and matured and became stronger. Normal
 - Probably not what Jesus was referring to.
- These passages all emphasize that Jesus grew spiritually.
- These lessons are not just for children ... they are for us.



Wisdom

- “filled with wisdom”
- “increased in wisdom”
- discussion in the temple
- This reminds us that we all have room to grow in wisdom
 - Jesus as a child grew
 - Certainly I can increase in wisdom too.



- in the temple (46)
 - I must be in my Father's house (49)
- Jesus made the choice to be in a place where he could learn among people who could teach him.
 - The temple is the meeting place with God
 - Ark of the covenant



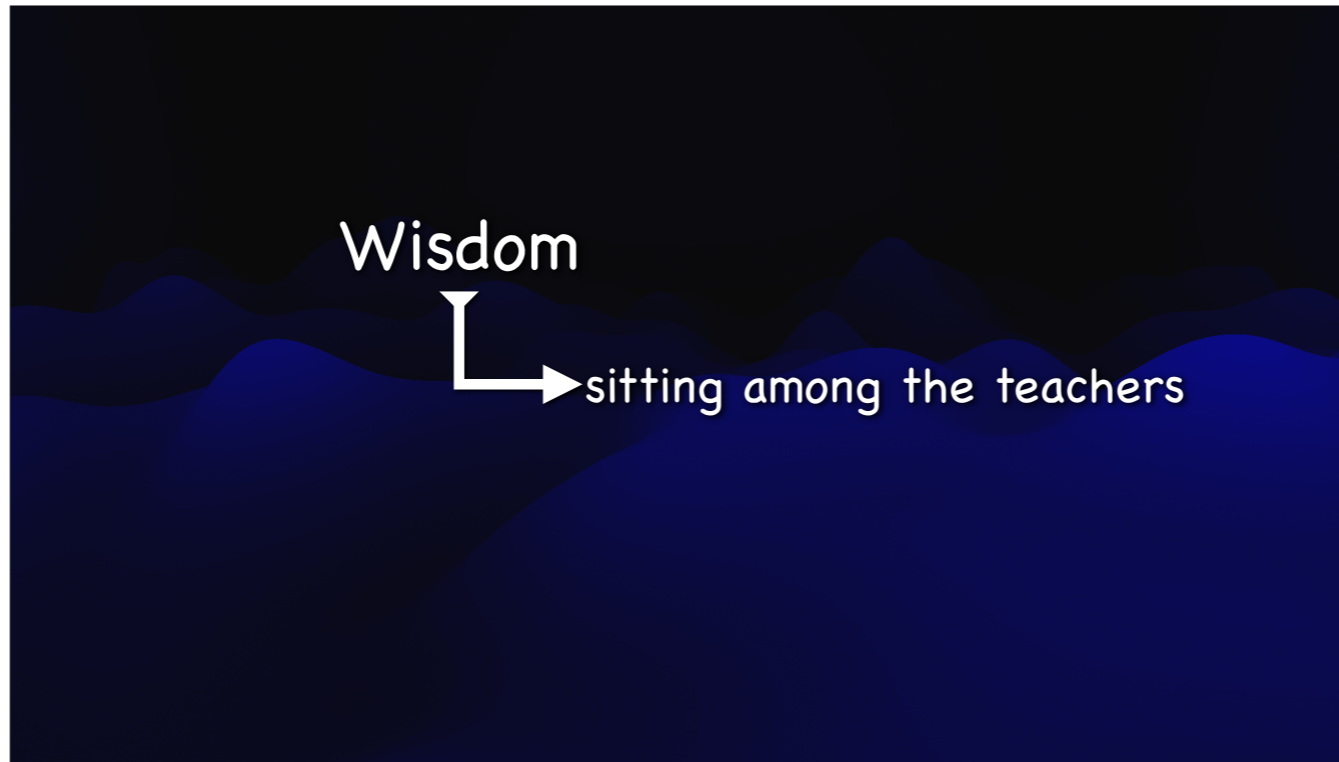
- Love spending time with God
 - This is not about a specific building anymore. The temple is God's people.
 - Psalms 122:1-2 (ESV) 1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" 2 Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
 - This is not just about "going to church"
 - This is about more than just saying spend more time praying and reading Bible
 - (All good things!)
 - But these don't help alone ... there's something deeper.



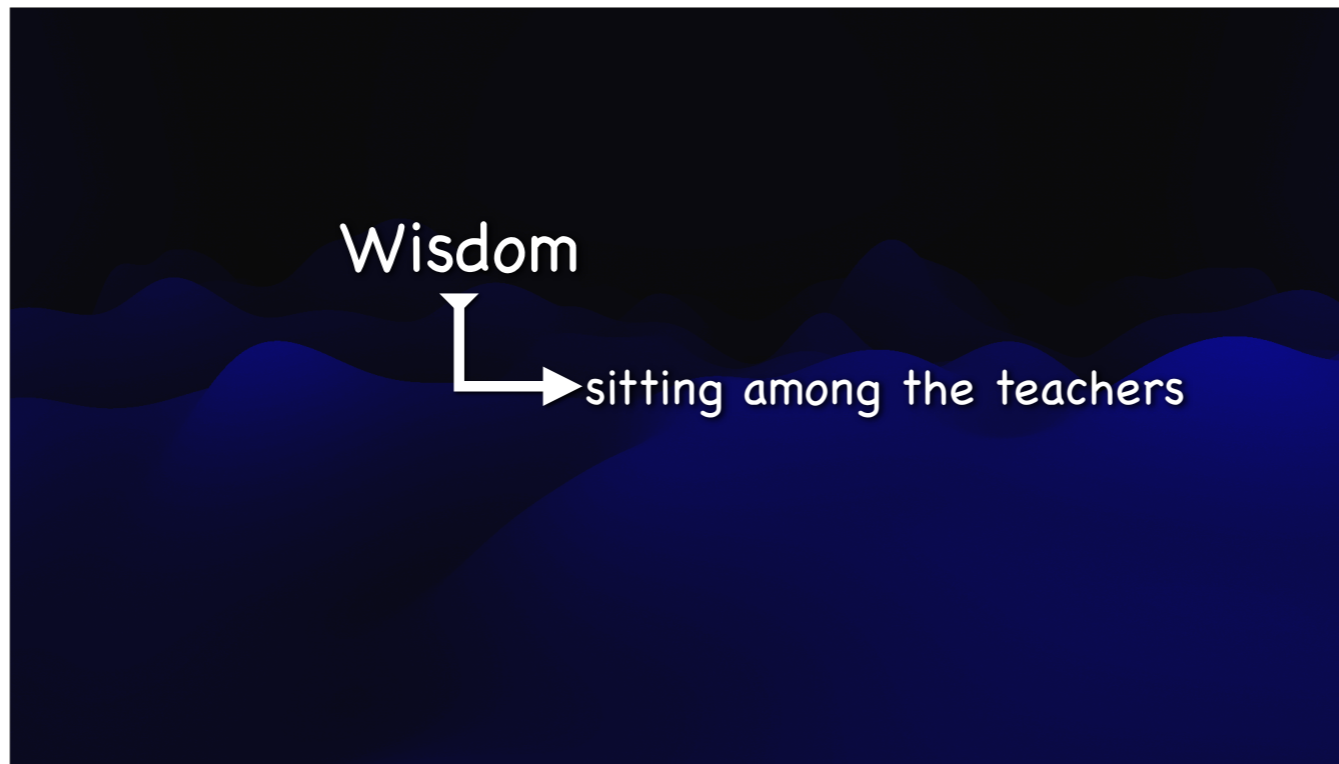
- Ultimately this about our relationship with God.
 - Growing in wisdom starts with a desire to be closer to your father and spending time with him.
 - Psalms 84:1-4 (ESV) 1 How **lovely** is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh **sing for joy** to the living God. 3 Even the sparrow finds a **home**, and the swallow a **nest** for herself, where she may **lay her young**, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah



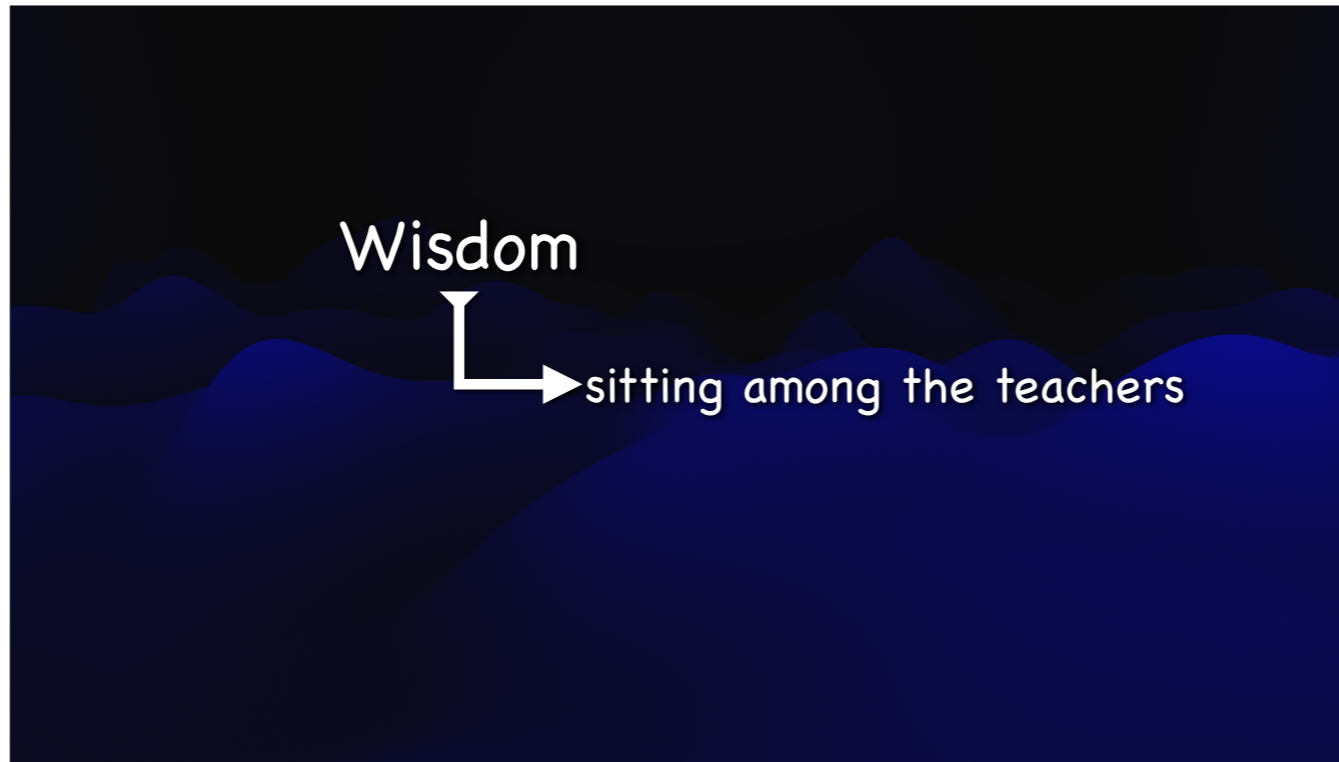
- Wisdom with God
- Proverbs 8:22-23 (ESV) 22 “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
- the first of his acts of old.
- 23 Ages ago I was set up,
- at the first, before the beginning of the earth.



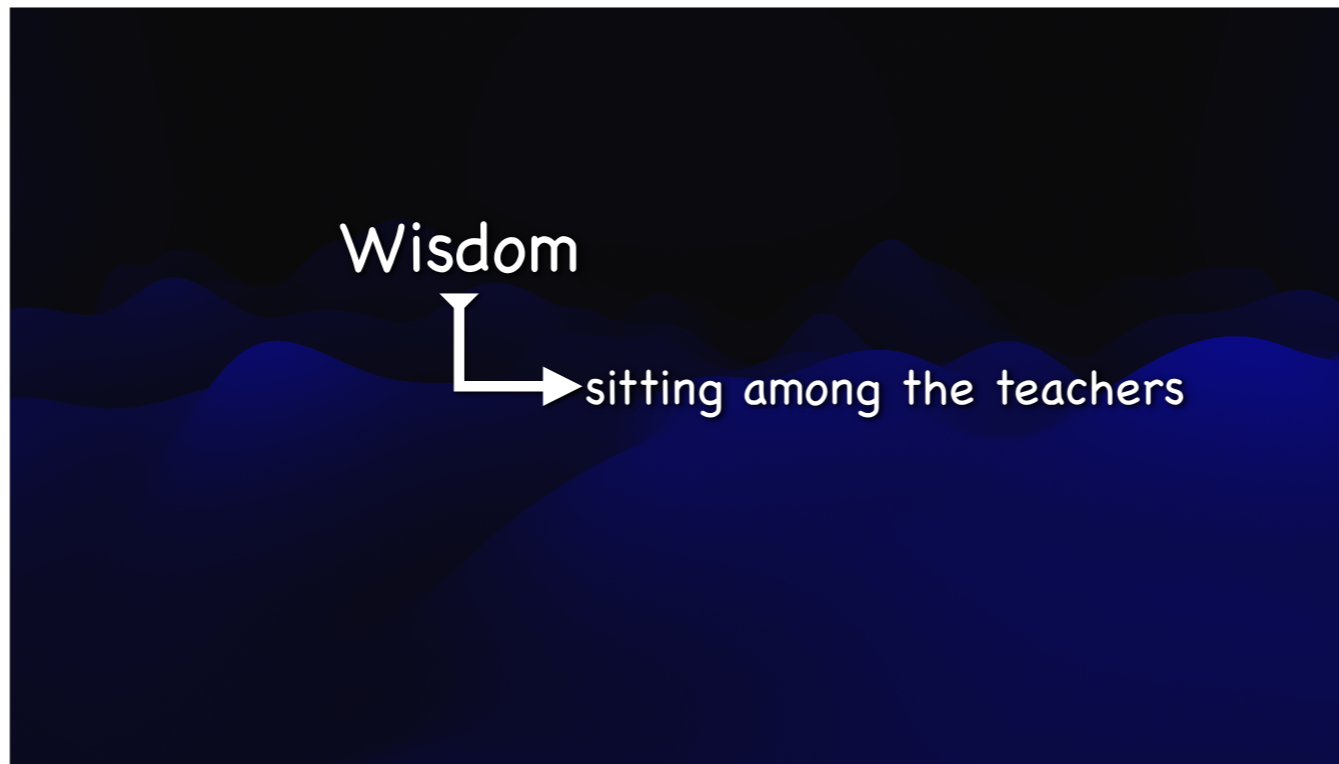
- sitting among the teachers
 - There are a lot of places that you can learn about God now
 - Who will you choose to learn from? Who can you trust?
 - Go to the Scriptures!



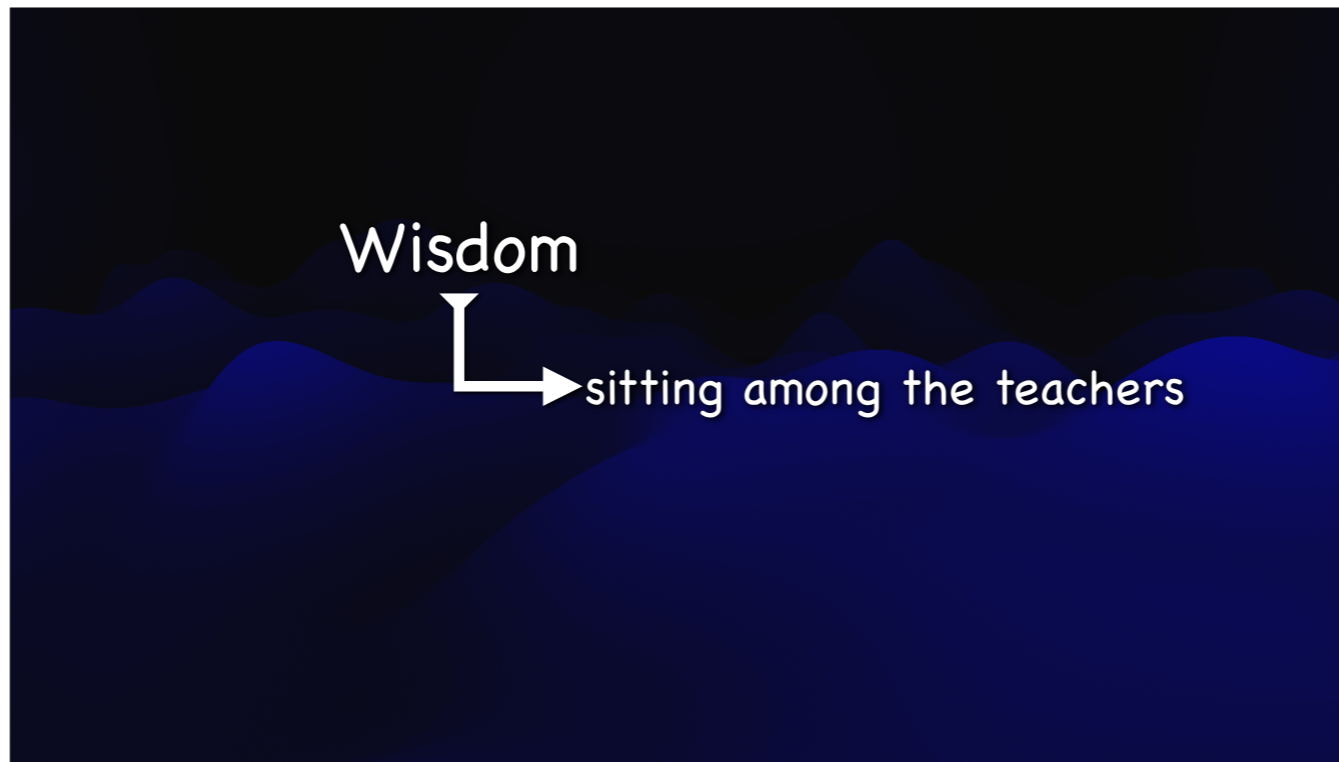
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV) 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it** 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



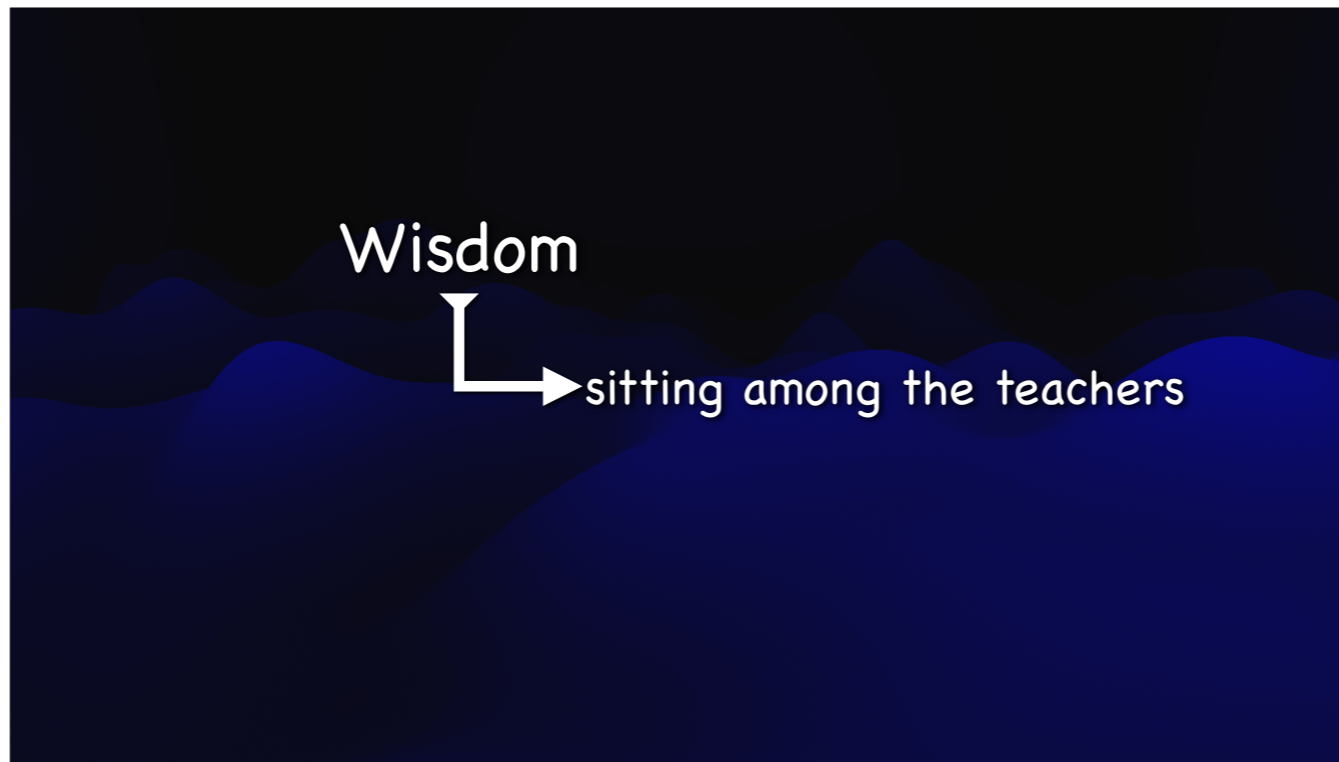
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- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV) 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it**
 - Apostle Paul
 - 2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.



- Acts 8:30-31 (ESV) 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
 - Personal Responsibility:
 - Put in the hard work to understand the scriptures
 - You are responsible for what you believe and understand
 - Take responsibility for your own faith



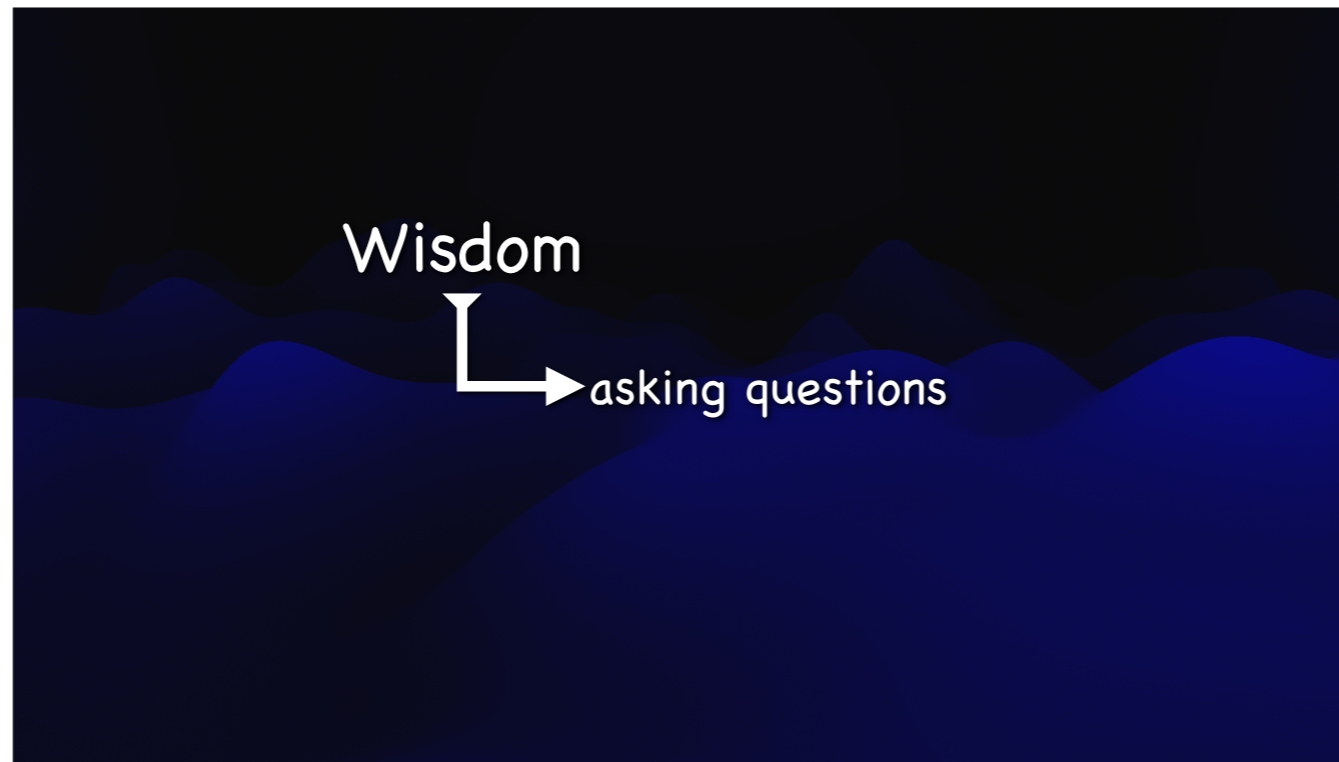
- Sometimes it helps to have someone guide you
 - Parents, Grandparents
 - Elders, Teachers
 - Nehemiah 8:8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
 - Not just traditions, etc.
 - More on this later...



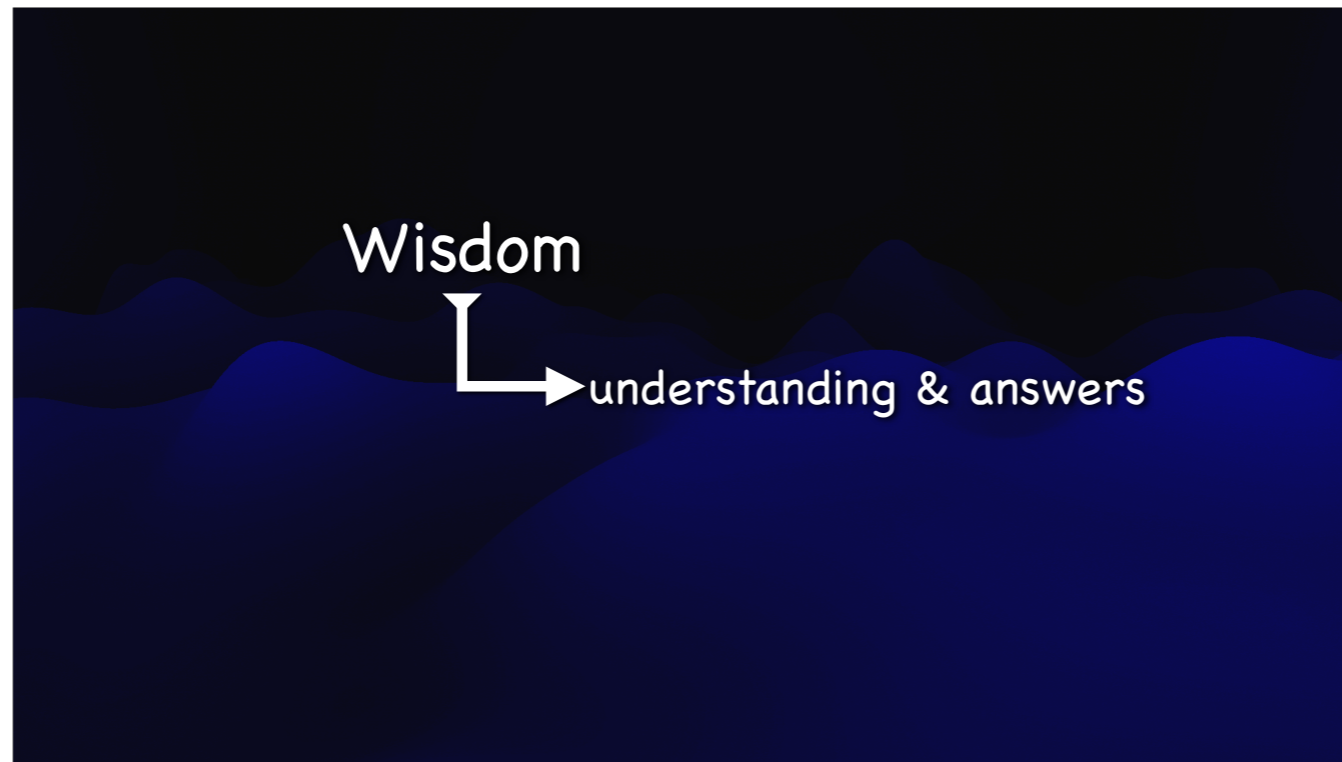
- listening
 - Be careful who you choose to listen to as your teachers:
 - friends may be as confused as you, not have as much experience
 - some adults are untrue
 - the internet is full of contradictions and skeptics
 - Remember Satan is a liar
- Listen to people who love you and love God
 - Kindness
 - Knowledge (hopefully)
 - But not naively



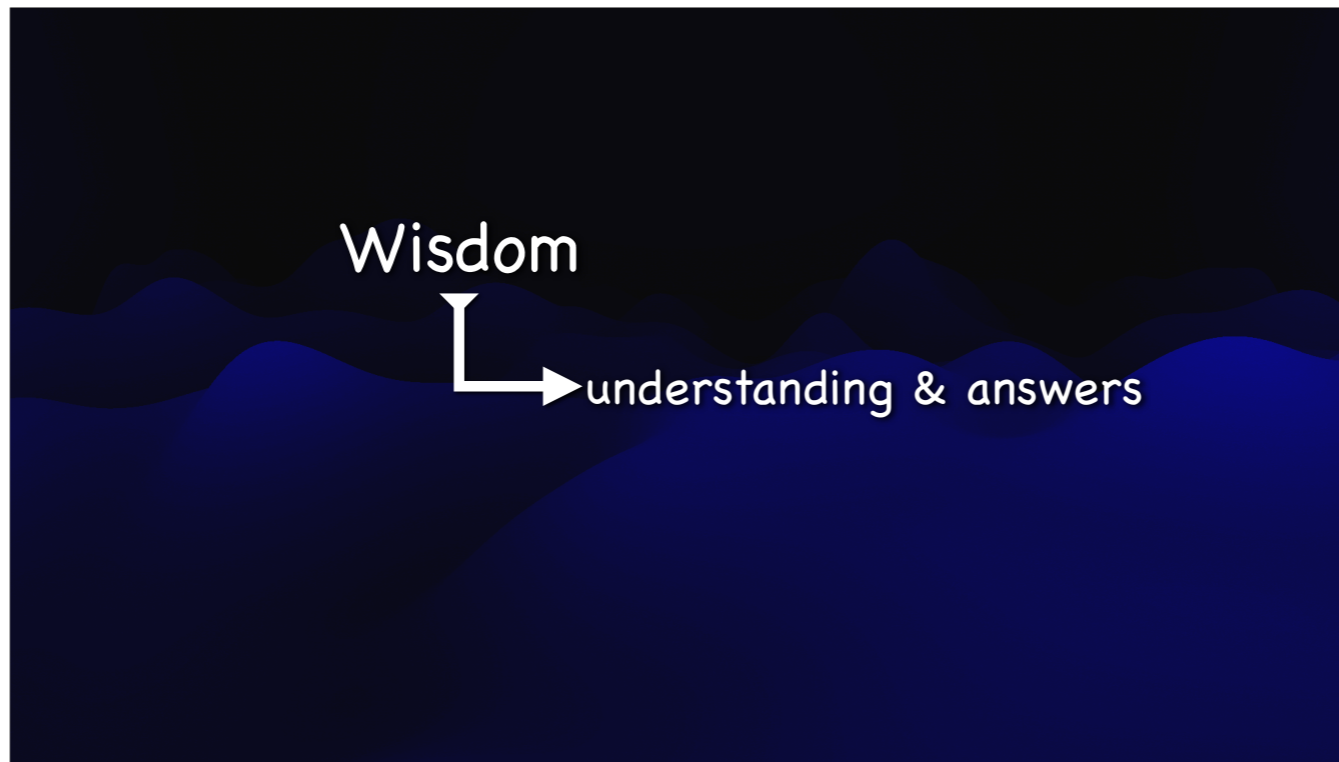
- Listen carefully
 - don't just try to prove yourself right
 - or justify what you already believe
 - listening should be active
 - learn to think
 - learn to recognize poor thinking
 - Better able to consider later what was said



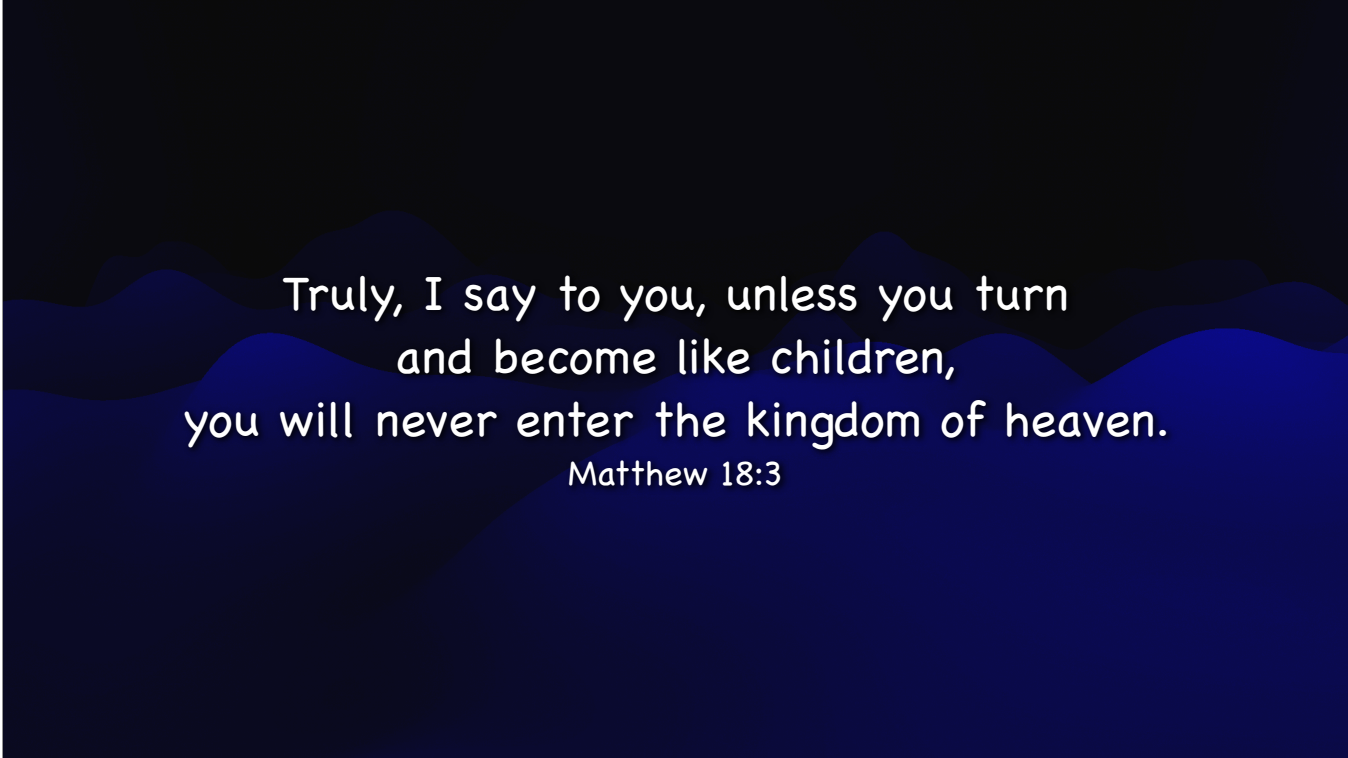
- asking questions
 - I love this picture of Jesus asking questions of adults at age 12
 - Teachers need to take the questions of children seriously and answer them properly
 - Don't dismiss them because they are young.
- Ask Questions when you don't understand
- Ask Hard questions when you think that something is amiss
 - It's okay to push those who are supposed to know.
 - It's okay to find out why
 - It's okay to say that something you've been taught is wrong.
- Ask questions!



- Understanding & Answers
 - If you know something it's okay to talk about it
- There are bad answers and bad understanding
 - Usually they are lacking in wisdom
 - Sometimes because we are just guessing
 - Sometimes because we've learned incorrectly
 - Sometimes because we haven't worked hard to get wisdom
 - Sometimes we've been content with what we've always been told




- If you've worked hard at wisdom:
 - drawing close to God
 - choosing good teachers
 - listening
 - asking questions
 - You'll be able to answer well also.
- 2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.



Truly, I say to you, unless you turn
and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3

- What do you learn from Jesus about being a child.
- Increase
- Seek God's Wisdom



We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Children of God

#01

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
Date
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Jesus Increased

Luke 2:39-52

Synopsis: Jesus teaches us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must become like children. In this lesson we see that in his youth Jesus increased in wisdom providing a reminder of our need to grow in the wisdom of God.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."